

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A resorbable contourable fixation device comprising:
a plurality of spaced-apart fastening plates; and
a plurality of deformable links interconnecting said fastening plates, said links having a smoothly curved arcuate shape;
wherein said fastening plates and said links are made of a resorbable material, said fixation device being contourable in three-dimensions.
2. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 1, further comprising a plurality elongate openings interspersed between said fastening plates.
3. (Canceled) The resorbable fixation device of claim 1, wherein said links have a smoothly curved arcuate shape.
4. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 3, wherein said arcuate links have a width of about 0.8 mm, an inside radius of curvature of about 2.2 mm and an outside radius of curvature of about 3 mm.
5. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 1, wherein said fastening plates do not deform when said fixation device is contoured.
6. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 1, wherein said fixation device is formed from a monolithic single sheet of material.
7. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 6, wherein said sheet of material is compression molded.

8. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 1, further comprising at least some of said fastening plates having holes therethrough to receive a fastener for securing said fixation device to the bone.

9. (Withdrawn) The resorbable fixation device of claim 8, wherein at least one of said fastener holes is a countersunk hole.

10. (Withdrawn) The resorbable fixation device of claim 9, wherein said countersunk hole further comprises double inclined walls including a first inclined wall forming a first wall angle and a second inclined wall forming a second wall angle, said first and second angles being different.

11. (Withdrawn) The resorbable fixation device of claim 10, wherein said first angle is about 20 degrees and said second angle is about 140 degrees.

12. (Withdrawn) The resorbable fixation device of claim 10, further comprising a fastener made of a resorbable material, said fastener having a head including a first inclined surface forming a first head angle and a second inclined surface forming a second head angle, wherein said first and second head angles are configured and arranged to substantially match said first and second wall angles of said countersunk fastener hole.

13. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 1, wherein said fastener holes are spaced at a distance of about 5 mm from each other measured from center to center of said fastener holes.

14. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 1, wherein said fastening plates are generally round in shape.

15. (Currently Amended) The resorbable fixation device of claim 14, wherein elongate openings are formed between adjacent said fastening plates and adjacent said links in said fixation device. [a portion of the periphery of four of said fastening plates and a portion of the periphery of four links forms elongate openings in said fixation device.]

16. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 15, wherein said elongate openings have a length of about 7.0 mm to about 8.0 mm and a minimum width of about 1.0 mm to about 1.5 mm.

17. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 15, wherein said elongate openings before contouring are symmetrical in shape.

18. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 17, wherein at least some of said elongate openings after contouring in at least two planes are not symmetrical in shape.

19. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 18, wherein at least some of said links contact each other or the fastening plates after contouring, thereby increasing the rigidity of said fixation device.

20. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 1, further comprising each of said links having a first end connectable to one of said fastening plates and a second end connectable to a different said fastening plate.

21. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 20, wherein said links are connected to said fastening plates such that said links extend radially outwards from said fastening plates in a spiral pattern.

22. (Currently Amended) The resorbable fixation device of claim 21, further comprising said links having a concave side, wherein said connection between said concave side of said links and said fastening plates has an inside radius of about 0.6 mm.

23. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 1, wherein said fixation device has a thickness of about 0.25 mm to about 1.2 mm.

24. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 1, wherein said fixation device has a substantially square shape.

25. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 24, wherein said fixation device is about 20 mm x 20 mm square to about 150 mm x 150 mm square.

26. (Withdrawn) The resorbable fixation device of claim 1, wherein said fixation device has a substantially round shape.

27. (Withdrawn) The resorbable fixation device of claim 26, wherein said fixation device has a diameter from about 20 mm to about 150 mm.

28. (Withdrawn) The resorbable fixation device of claim 1, wherein said fixation device has substantially crescent shape.

29. (Withdrawn) The resorbable fixation device of claim 28, wherein said fixation device has a length of about 45 mm to about 75 mm.

30. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 1, further comprising at least two rows of spaced-apart fastening plates, each of said rows including at least two fastening plates.

31. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 1, wherein said resorbable material contains lactide.

32. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 31, wherein said resorbable fixation device further comprises glycolide.

33. (Original) A resorbable fixation device capable of being secured to bone, said fixation device comprising:

a plurality of spaced-apart fastening plates, at least some of said fastening plates having a fastener hole therethrough to receive a fastener for securing said fixation device to the bone;

a plurality of arcuately-shaped links interconnecting said fastening plates and extending from said fastening plates in a spiral pattern;

wherein said fastening plates and links are made of a resorbable material,

wherein a plurality of said fastening plates are interconnected by four links, said interconnected fastening plates and links form an open-structured deformable fixation device having elongate openings therein, said fixation device capable of being contoured in three dimensions.

34. (Withdrawn) The resorbable fixation device of claim 33, wherein at least some of said fastener holes are countersunk.

35. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 33, wherein said fixation device further comprises at least four fastening plates, said plates arranged in at least two rows of at least two fastening plates in each row, said rows arranged in spaced-apart relationship to each other.

36. (Original) A resorbable contourable fixation device comprising:
at least two rows of spaced-apart fastening plates, each of said rows including at least two fastening plates;
at least one arcuately-shaped link interconnecting each of said fastening plates to at least one other fastening plate;
said fastening plates and links arranged to define a plurality of elongate-shaped openings in said fixation device;
wherein said fastening plates and said links are formed of a resorbable material, and
whereby said fastening plates, links, and elongate openings define an open-structured fixation device capable of being contoured in three dimensions.

37. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 36, wherein at least some of the elongate openings are oriented vertically and at least some of said elongate openings are oriented horizontally with respect to said fixation device.

38. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 36, wherein said links radiate outward from said fastening plates in a spiral pattern.

39. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 36, wherein said resorbable material is a copolymer containing lactide.

40. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 36, wherein said resorbable material is a copolymer of lactide and glycolide.

41. (Original) A resorbable contourable fixation device formed from a plurality of repeating base fixation device units, each said base fixation device unit comprising:

four spaced-apart fastening plates, said fastening plates arranged such that each said fastening plate forms a corner of said base fixation device unit, at least some of said fastening plates having a hole passing therethrough to receive a fastener for attaching said base fixation device unit to a bone;

at least four arcuately-curved links connecting said fastening plates together, said at least four links arranged around an opening formed by said at least four links and at least a portion of said fastening plates;

wherein said base fixation device is made from a resorbable material having a glass transition temperature (T_g);

whereby said base fixation device unit is changeable between:

a) a first condition wherein the temperature of said base fixation device unit is below the glass transition temperature (T_g) and said base fixation device unit is substantially rigid, and

b) a second condition wherein the temperature of said base fixation device unit is above the glass transition temperature (T_g) and said base fixation device unit is flexible and contourable in three dimensions.

42. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 41, further comprising said fastening plates being substantially round in shape.

43. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 41, wherein said fastening plates are equally spaced apart so as to form a substantially square shape.

44. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 41, wherein two of said at least four arcuately-curved links project inwards toward said opening and two of said at least four arcuately-curved links project outwards from said opening.

45. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 44, wherein said opening is substantially elongate and symmetrical in shape.

46. (Withdrawn) A method of contouring and attaching a resorbable fixation device to a bone comprising the steps of:

providing a resorbable fixation device having a glass transition temperature (T_g) that is higher than average human body temperature, said fixation device comprising:

- a) a plurality of spaced-apart fastening plates;
- b) a plurality of arcuately-shaped deformable links interconnecting said fastening plates, said links arranged to define elongate openings between said fastening plates, said fixation device capable of being contoured in three-dimensions to conform to the shape of the bone;

raising the temperature of said fixation device above the glass transition temperature (T_g);
deforming said fixation device to substantially conform to the anatomical shape of the bone;

cooling the temperature of the fixation device to below the glass transition temperature (T_g);

placing said fixation device on the bone; and
attaching said fixation device to the bone.

47. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46, wherein at least some of said fastening plates have a fastener hole therethrough, and further comprising the steps of:

providing fasteners;
inserting said fasteners through at least some of said fastener holes,
wherein said fasteners are used for attaching said fixation device to the bone.

48. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46, further comprising the steps of:
forming fastener holes in at least some of said fastening plates;
providing fasteners;
inserting said fasteners through at least some of said fastener holes,
wherein said fasteners are used for attaching said fixation device to the bone.

49. (Withdrawn) A method of contouring and attaching a resorbable fixation device to a bone comprising the steps of:

providing a resorbable fixation device having a glass transition temperature (T_g) that is higher than the average human body temperature, said fixation device comprising:

- a) a plurality of spaced-apart fastening plates;
- b) a plurality of arcuately-shaped deformable links interconnecting said fastening plates, said links arranged to define elongate openings between said fastening plates, said fixation device capable of being contoured in three-dimensions to conform to the shape of the bone;

raising the temperature of said fixation device above the glass transition temperature (T_g);

placing said fixation device on the bone;

deforming said fixation device to substantially conform to the anatomical shape of the bone;

cooling the temperature of the fixation device to below the glass transition temperature (T_g); and

attaching said fixation device to the bone.

50. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 49, wherein at least some of said fastening plates have a fastener hole therethrough, and further comprising the steps of:

providing fasteners;

inserting said fasteners through at least some of said fastener holes,

wherein said fasteners are used for attaching said fixation device to the bone.

51. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 49, further comprising the steps of:
forming fastener holes in at least some of said fastening plates;
providing fasteners;
inserting said fasteners through at least some of said fastener holes,
wherein said fasteners are used for attaching said fixation device to the bone.
52. (Currently Amended) A resorbable contourable fixation device kit comprising:
at least a first resorbable fixation device comprising:
a) a plurality of spaced-apart fastening plates;
b) a plurality of deformable links interconnecting said fastening plates, said links having a curved arcuate shape; and
c) a plurality elongate openings interspersed between said fastening plates,
wherein said fastening plates and said links are made of a resorbable material,
said fixation device being contourable in three-dimensions; and
a plurality of fasteners for attaching said fixation device to bone.
53. (Canceled) The kit of claim 52, wherein said links have a curved arcuate shape.
54. (Original) The kit of claim 53, wherein said links extend radially outward from said fastening plates in a spiral pattern.
55. (Original) The kit of claim 52, wherein at least some of said fastening plates have a fastener hole therethrough.
56. (Original) The kit of claim 52, wherein at least some of said fasteners are made from a resorbable material.
57. (Original) The kit of claim 52, wherein said fasteners include screws or tacks.

58. (Original) The kit of claim 52, wherein said at least first fixation device has a shape selected from the group consisting of square, round, and crescent.

59. (Original) The kit of claim 52, further comprising at least a second resorbable fixation device, said second fixation device having a different overall size than said at least first fixation device.

60. (Original) The kit of claim 52, further comprising at least a second resorbable fixation device, said second fixation device having a different shape than said at least first fixation device.

61. (Original) The kit of claim 52, further comprising at least a second resorbable fixation device, said second fixation device having a different thickness than said at least first fixation device.

62. (Original) The kit of claim 60, further comprising at least a third resorbable fixation device, said third fixation device having a different shape than said at least first and second fixation devices.

63. (Original) The resorbable fixation device of claim 1, further comprising the resorbable material being radiolucent.